

MAKING CONNECTIONS WITH

SPEAK BY LAURIE HALSE ANDERSON

Miss Detrick- Foundations

"Don't expect to make a difference unless you stick up for yourself." - David Petrakis

INTRODUCTION

Laurie Halse Anderson's novel, *Speak*, is an excellent book to use as a springboard to cover some real in-depth issues. Physical and mental abuse, underage drinking, unsupervised parties, social cliques, bullying, social outcasts, and teen-age depression are a few of the themes that as mature high school students you can explore and discuss. For your final project on *Speak* you will choose a project from the ideas below. You will be assessed based on quality and development of ideas, relevance, organization, style, and wording and phrasing. In addition to these requirements, you will also be responsible for appearance, legibility, grammar, tone and use of additional resources. You must cite your sources, so please write down all sources that you consult.

PROJECT POSSIBILITIES

★ Create a scrapbook to portray Melinda's life during her freshman year. Include pictures, postcards, mementos, diary entries/letters, and objects that tell us her favorite foods, places, activities, important moments in her life, her goals, happiest and saddest moments, etc. Each page should reflect something different about Melinda's life. When opening the scrapbook you should have an event or memento on the left hand side and then on the right hand side your research pertaining to the memento. For example, you could choose to have an invitation to the summer party on the left hand side and then on the right you could have research pertaining to underage drinking and unsupervised parties. It is necessary for the scrapbook to include research information on the important themes from the book. You must cover five topics and create at least ten pages total- 2 for each topic.

★ Create a series of poems or songs that Melinda could have written about running away, about being raped, about starting high school, about being an outcast, about her family's communication problems, about wanting to speak or be silent, about her feelings, goals in life, or anything else you can think of that she may have wanted to write about. Present the poems or songs in an organized and creative way. Again you must include research to support your lyrics or poetry, so next to a poem about rape you would have research pertaining to rape. You must cover five topics and create at least 5 poems or songs.

★ Melinda is extremely depressed in the novel *Speak*. Did you know that over 2 million teenagers in the U.S. are depressed and only 40 percent of these teens seek treatment? Find out about depression and create an advertising campaign teaching us about depression and how someone can get help. An advertising campaign should include at least a poster, and three other ways of getting out your message (ex. Bumper stickers, flyers, buttons, t-shirts etc.). You can also create a public service announcement video for this topic. Make sure you make references to *Speak* and Melinda's character. See Miss D's theatre publicity projects to get more ideas! It is also possible to do an advertising campaign about another issue (such as sexual abuse, mental abuse etc.) but must have this approved by Miss D.

★ Write and produce a radio talk-show program or a television talk-show program (Oprah, Jerry Springer etc.) featuring Melinda after the end of the novel. Your project should be in a script format and actually acted out and/or filmed. What does Melinda have to say? What are her thoughts on cliques, being a social outcast, teenage depression, underage drinking, physical and mental abuse, sexual harassment, and bullying? Be sure to include facts along with your ideas. You might choose to have a doctor or psychologist as a guest to help shed some light on Melinda's situation (and this would help you to include your research!). You must cover 5 topics and turn in a 2-3 page script and be prepared to present the script either as a play for the class, or video taped and ready to show on a DVD.

★ Feeling the creative juices flowing? **Ask Miss Detrick to approve an idea you don't see on this list!** For example you could design a web page about one or more of the issues discussed in *Speak* or you could think of another creative way to show your understanding of the novel.

THE PROCESS

The following instructions will lead you to success with your project:

1. Identity your project
 2. Research your topic. Use Noodletools to create your citations and notecards.
 3. Create a rough draft of your project... show some progress to Miss Detrick.
 4. Edit project and prepare it for a presentation to the class.
 5. Fill out self-evaluation.
 6. Submit project to Miss Detrick for evaluation.
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RESOURCES

You are to use at **LEAST** three sources for this project- only one being an Internet source. You must also have a work-cited page for your project. It should be completed in MLA format. We will discuss this further in class!

Citing Sources

Miss Detrick
Foundations

Why are we doing this?!

Students often wonder why they have to do research. Of all the skills taught in English class, research is probably the one that you will use more than any other in your lifetime. You will use it to buy a car or house, to advance yourself in business, to decide how to vote on candidates and issues, to learn more about raising children, investing money, and a myriad of other “issues” in life. To do these, you will need to know where to go for information, how to gather it, and how to evaluate the worth or truth of that information. Once you have the information, you will need to draw conclusions and make decisions based on what you have learned. At times you will need to present your research to others in order to improve and make changes in the lives of family, community, state, and nation. Over the course of your four years at WSHS, you will learn and practice the skills that will make you a successful researcher. We will begin at the beginning to make sure you know how to correctly gather necessary research information and how to correctly cite it for use in your *Speak* project.

Your Mission: Using the tips below you will be able to B L A Z E through doing your MLA citations correctly for your *Speak* project! Your goal for this project is to simply be able to show me that you know how to do the following:

1. Find relevant research pertaining to your chosen topic.
2. Correctly cite this information by either paraphrasing the information or putting direct quotes in quotation marks.
3. Give credit to the source by correctly referencing the source in a parenthetical reference.

Because you have multiple kinds of sources, I will most likely not have every source written here as a reference. If you used a source that is not listed and want to know how to cite it you can do the following: ask me for help or if this is unavailable to you at the time you are working on your project you can reference your Writers Inc. text (this is a book all freshman bought at schedule pick-up!).

MLA and Plagiarism:

Many of you have written multi-paragraph papers or multi-step projects, but for most of you, all the information in these papers/projects was out of your own head. When a person composes a paper or project based on research, he/she must have a way to give credit to the sources from which the research came and a way to distinguish between information from sources and information from the writer's own brain. This giving credit is called **documentation**. While there are several systems that can be used to do this, the one we use at WSHS (and the one used at most colleges) was created by the **Modern Language Association** or **MLA** for short. While this system may seem very complicated at first, with a bit of practice you will find it is not hard to use. There are many models to follow both in this guide and in handbooks in the library and on the Internet.

Why is it so important to use the MLA system? Authors, film makers, song writers, etc. make their livings by what they create. To take their words or ideas and claim them for your own is committing **plagiarism**. Plagiarism is defined as the “taking of ideas or words from another and presenting them as one’s own.” Morally and legally, plagiarism is wrong, and it is important to understand how to avoid committing this deed. Academically, plagiarism is grounds for receiving a failing grade (not just at WSHS but also in college). In the “real world” it is grounds for lawsuits.

This is where the MLA system comes in. You will use this system to be sure that you are not guilty of stealing another’s ideas. You are now ready to cite sources that contain information that will be useful in your research.

Citing Sources

In your project you will be sharing with your reader the information you have found in your sources. As we have stated before you will need to cite this information in order to avoid plagiarism. Here, very briefly, is how the MLA citation system usually works.

1. The source is introduced by a signal phrase that names its author.
2. The material being cited is followed by a page number in parentheses.
3. When the author is unknown, the title of the article will appear in the signal phrase.
4. If the article does not have numbered pages (pamphlet or internet article for example) then there will be no parentheses after the citation.
5. There will **NEVER** be a situation where you use the URL either in the signal phrase or in parentheses.

Let's look at the following example:

Here is a citation from a student paper on the threat posed by mountain lions in California

As lion authority John Seidensticker remarks, "The boldness displayed by mountain lions just doesn't square with the shy, retiring behavior familiar to those of us who have studied these animals" (117).

The entry on the Works Cited page :

Seidensticker, John. "Mountain Lion Don't Stalk People: True or False?" Audubon Feb 1992:
113-22.

Using the above example let's note some basics:

1. MLA much prefers that the source is introduced with the author's name. This makes it clear that what follows is from research and not from the student's brain. It helps the reader (especially the teacher who is grading the paper) distinguish between source material and student commentary on that source material. It also clearly identifies which source from the Works Cited page was used.
2. Notice that the page number is **NOT** preceded by the word page or any abbreviation of that word.
3. Note that the end punctuation occurs **AFTER** the parentheses.

To avoid monotony, try to vary both the language and the placement of your signal phrase. Choose a verb that is appropriate in the context. The follow list will help you to do this:

acknowledges	comments	endorses	reasons
adds	compares	grants	refutes
admits	confirms	illustrates	rejects
agrees	contends	implies	reports
argues	declares	insists	responds
asserts	denies	notes	suggests
believes	disputes	observes	thinks
claims	emphasizes	points out	writes

Here are a few examples:

As Kevin Hansen has noted, "..."

Karen McCall and Jim Dutcher point out that ...

California politician Tim Leslie insists that ...

"...", writes researcher James Rychnovsky.

... are three arguments for the law claimed by Jerome Robinson.

While MLA **prefers** the use of a signal phrase with the author's name, it is permissible not to include it. If so, the author's last name must appear in the parentheses along with the page number at the end of the citation. Note the following example:

Though the number of lion attacks on humans is low, the rate of increase of attacks since the 1960s is cause for serious concern (Rychnovsky 43).

Works Cited entry:

Rychovsky, Ray. "Clawing into Controversy." Outdoor Life Jan.1995: 38-42

Notice there is **no punctuation mark** between the author's name and the page number.

If you have a source that does not fit the examples given or you are unsure that you are proceeding correctly, see your teacher.

Now that you have the basics for citations, what follows are some examples on how to do your information pages on your *Speak* project. Instead of researching the topics that you all did, I selected to study something I care about- HIV/AIDS awareness.

**EXAMPLE
PAGE:**

**Direct Quote-
Citing using the authors names.
Notice no page numbers
because online source**

**Paraphrased
(In my own words using the
author's knowledge)**

**Listing the article when no
Author given.**

**Listing- citing at the end of the
List and quoting entire list.**

Detrick 1

HIV/AIDS Awareness

- "The human immunodeficiency virus, or HIV, is an infectious organism that invades and destroys immune-system cells. Some people can go for many years without developing symptoms, but without treatment with powerful antiviral drugs, the virus gradually reduces immunity. This can lead to acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, or AIDS, in which the person falls victim to a variety of infections, often from organisms that have little or no effect on a healthy person. These are called opportunistic infections, and they account for most AIDS-related deaths" (Rigsby and Friedland).
- HIV can be transmitted a number of different ways including sexual intercourse, sharing hypodermic needles, blood transfusions, and from mothers to babies during pregnancy or breast feeding (Rigsby and Friedland).
- The CIA reports in the article "Field Listing- HIV/AIDS- Adult Prevalence Rate" that 0.6% of people living in the United States have HIV or AIDS while the number skyrockets to 38.8% and 37.3% in the African countries of Swaziland and Botswana respectively.
- "Despite widespread fears, HIV does not seem to be transmitted in the following ways:
 - Casual contact such as hugging, shaking hands, using public toilets, touching doorknobs, sharing drinking fountains, etc.
 - Contact with urine, feces, sputum, sweat, or nasal secretions (unless blood is clearly visible)
 - Insect or animal bites
 - Sharing work or home environments
 - Donating blood. You cannot catch HIV by giving blood. Blood banks use a new, sterile needle for each individual donor" (Yancey).

***Please note the following: I did all of my research online on Student Research Center. These are all BOOKS with the full-text available online! If I did use a book, I must be certain that I give page numbers. For example, if the book is written by John Doe and the fact you are citing is on page 27 you would cite it (Doe 27).**

Other Examples:

What happens when my article does not have an author?

Example Works Cited:

"Depression." *Teens Health*. Nemours, Oct. 2007. Web. 7 Dec. 2010.
<http://kidshealth.org/teen/your_mind/mental_health/depression.html#>.

Example in Project:

Teenage Depression

- "Depression is very common and affects as many as 1 in 8 people in their teen years. Depression affects people of every color, race, economic status, or age; however, it does seem to affect more girls than guys" ("Depression").
- Some signs of depression are wanting to sleep all the time, gaining weight, having difficulty sleeping, crying for no reason, having trouble concentrating in school, receiving low grades, and not wanting to hang out with friends ("Depression").

Notice that the first fact is a direct quotation. You can tell because it is in quotation marks. The second fact has been paraphrased but is still followed by a parenthetical citation. If your article has page numbers, you would still note the page number after the article title Ex. ("Depression" 25).

NOODLETOOLS!

What is Noodletools? Noodletools is a works cited creator. A works cited page is often also referred to as a bibliography. Beyond creating the citation page, Noodletools also helps with note-taking.

Your Mission: Create a Noodletools account, complete your first citation, and begin taking notes using the note card feature.

Website: www.noodletools.com

Login and Register:

1. Click on Current Users: Sign In
2. Click on Create a Personal ID
3. Keep it clicked on "link to a school/library subscription"
4. Hit register
5. School/Library Username: Westerville
6. Password: citation
7. To register yourself: Username= School ID #, Password= Home phone number with no area code

Create a Project: Project Title= Speak Paper

Create a Citation: Create a citation for
http://kidshealth.org/teen/your_mind/mental_health/depression.html

Create Notecards: Take notes using the notecard feature. Be sure to use the correct portion of the notecard! If a direct quote be sure to indicate this, if you paraphrase put it in your own words (by the way this does not mean just merely changing the words using different synonyms!), or if you want to add your own ideas do this at the bottom of the notecard. You should be able to create about 6-10 notecards on your topic.

SPEAK PROJECT RUBRIC

Foundations- Miss Detrick
Due Tuesday, January 4th, 2011

Scrapbook: 10 pages/ 5 topics
Poetry/ Songs: 10 pages/ 5 topics

Ad Campaign: 1 poster/ 3 other methods of getting your word out
Script: 5 topics included/ DVD or live presentation

Research Portion:

- | | |
|--|----------|
| Use of three reliable sources minimum | /15 pts. |
| Project includes appropriate amount of information (8-10 facts per source/topic) | /10 pts. |
| Information used is paraphrased or directly quoted | /25 pts. |
| Parenthetical citations were used correctly | /25 pts. |
| Works cited page included (print out of bibliography) | /15 pts. |

Creative Portion:

- | | |
|---|----------|
| Does your project demonstrate an understanding of the book? | |
| Have you incorporated Melinda's story? | /25 pts. |
| Is your project creative and original? | /15 pts. |
| Is your project neat, organized and presented nicely? | /15 pts. |

Grammar and Spelling:

- | | |
|---|----------|
| Correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling conventions used | /15 pts. |
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Deductions:

- 15 points for each day late
- 15 points for inappropriate behavior during presentations
- 50 points for inappropriate tone for project
- 150 points for plagiarism

Total:	/150 pts.
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Comments: